



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7670 | FAX (517) 373.5958

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/sanborn/

For Immediate Release
February 10, 2004

Contact: Scott Ray
517-373-7670

Legislature announces Family and Marriage Preservation Plan

Lansing – State Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Twp., joined legislative colleagues at the Capitol today to launch the bipartisan Family and Marriage Preservation Plan. The plan promotes strong marriages, strong families and a strong Michigan.

“Strong marriages and strong families form the foundation of our society,” Sanborn said. “It is critical that we give couples the tools they need to succeed in marriage and protect children as much as we can in cases of divorce.”

Sanborn is sponsoring legislation aimed at encouraging couples to complete at least four hours of premarital education or counseling before making their marriage vows. Senate Bill 964 would increase the waiting period for a license from three days to 27 days for couples who choose not to participate in a premarital education or counseling program.

Other components of the legislative package:

- Allow a clergy member to continue to legally offer marriage counseling after retirement;
- Provide a marriage preservation tax credit;
- Promote divorce effects education programs; and
- Require parenting plans in divorce situations.

Sponsors of the 16-bill package include: Sens. Sanborn, Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt; Valde Garcia, R-Howell; Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood; Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau; Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland; and Jim Barcia, D-Bay City; as well as Reps. Joanne Voorhees, R-Wyoming; Ken Bradstreet, R-Gaylord; John Gleason, D-Flushing; Lauren Hager, R-Port Huron; John Moolenaar, R-Midland; John Stahl, R-North Branch; Lisa Wojno, D-Warren; and Barb Vander Veen, R-Allendale.

###